



Report to:	Community Engagement Committee
Tabled on:	5 th Nov 2019
Agenda reference:	CE19/038 Update – Community Engagement Programme
Report by:	Liz Carroll-Wheat, Community Projects Officer

Overview:

This report outlines our project delivery from September to November 2019.

During this period, the team have continued with delivery of projects, launching new methods of promotion and networking with partners.

1. Seniors Update

Seniors Coffee mornings continue to be very well attended, with in excess of 70 people per session.

We continue to programme a mixture of **Talks and activities**, in this period including:

- **Tools for Self-Reliance**, to talk about volunteering opportunities for seniors, tool amnesty and their charity work abroad
- **Cloud 9 Holidays** – to introduce seniors to accessible and escorted holidays which are ideal for older people and those living on their own
- **History Talk** – Northampton Castle
- **Trip** – Coventry Motor Museum – 53-person trip, tour and lunch



Coming up – we have musical session at The Barns, a talk by Dr Tony Hillier and Christmas Party at Greens on 10th Dec.

2020 dates for seniors are set and all venues already booked. We restart on Tuesday 14th January after Christmas break. We will be issuing seniors with details of other activities on offer locally, during the Christmas period, following consultation with Library, Abbey Centre and Collingtree Pub.

Other activities – whilst we are also now focussing on building our programme of activities, we are ensuring that seniors group are kept up to date with all parish council initiatives, leading to seniors interacting with others at craft sessions, exercise classes and pop-up events such as our Macmillan Coffee morning.

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Seniors One-Stop-Shop Information – Information is an increasing part of our work with seniors, providing information and sign posting on many issues, from housing, pensions, health and mobility.

Presentations/visits from local parish councillors can be programmed in, should parish councillors wish to use Seniors Coffee mornings as a method to talk with local people.

2. Get Active – Health & Wellbeing Focus

2.1 Following the success of our Summer pilot programme, we are now in our second set of Get Active sessions. These are delivered by Danes Camp Leisure Centre and financially subsidised with a grant from NBC Councillor Phil Larrett.

A core of 30 people attends – up to 60 on the list, taking part when available. This is the maximum which can be catered for in the current format.

The Leisure Trust carried out feedback surveys with the Summer participants, in order to programme our latest programme.

We are in discussion with Danes Camp, hoping to continue the sessions throughout 2020 if the hall is available.

Onward development of Get Active as a parish council initiative, will be a key feature of 2020. Ideas being scoped at this time:

- Walking Group
- Fun run for Summer 2020
- Walking/Running/outdoor gym routes – with maps – for park areas

Updates on these initiatives, including funding will be brought to Community Engagement Committee as plans develop.



2.2 Social Prescribing Link – New NCC Officer Danes Camp Surgery – Get Active:

Through contact with Danes Camp Surgery, we are now linked into their new Social Prescribing Officer, who recently attended our Get Active Session. She talked with participants after the session, about what they think about current opportunities and find out how they have become involved in such activities.

Liz Carroll-Wheat has linked the new officer with other local partners, including Abbey Centre and Leisure Trust and will be working jointly with her on future projects.

Feedback on our current community offer and our ongoing development for communicating with local people was very positive. Continues...

Social Prescribing is an initiative to link people with local activities and clubs, to combat social isolation in our communities. This link is a positive step forward in terms of our East Hunsbury Life ethos. The new officer has been invited to give a presentation to our next Community Engagement Meeting in the new year. Social Prescribing could be an effective way of engaging even more isolated people to be part of our activities, plus networking with our local health care providers.

3. Schools Projects – joint projects

Our links to our schools is proving extremely successful, with 3 schools now working on a regular basis, on community projects.

3.1 Litter Heroes and Recycling Champions

Cllr Maggie Allen presented Litter Kit to **East Hunsbury Primary School** and held two assemblies, with Liz Carroll-Wheat, to talk with the pupils about parish council initiatives, to make East Hunsbury a better place to live. Feedback from pupils and staff has been excellent. The school will be updating us on their work.

Following this session at East Hunsbury Primary, we presented ideas to **Wootton Park School**, in order to include them in the initiative. Wootton Park School will be hosting a litter pick, each term, using our equipment. They have also volunteered to sort crisp packets – as we are now a designated drop-off point for crisp packet recycling, as part of the Teracycle scheme. Packets are dropped off at Library and we are delivering to the school.



Note – other groups involved with Litter Picks – supported by the parish council:

Youth Club Litter Picks – Our Friday youth clubs are also running litter picks around Blacky More Area. This will be worked into their programme as an ongoing activity.

East Hunsbury Litter Pickers – We continue to support local communities who wish to litter pick.

3.2 School of Life – Intergenerational Project

3 more sessions are planned in November and December, at Hunsbury Library. **Simon de Senlis School** will be our partner for this term. This project continues to bring rewards, with schools

For new term in 2020, **East Hunsbury Primary** will be our School of Life Link School, for a couple of terms. This will be their first time engaging with the project.

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3.3 Wildflower Planting – and Forest Schools

East Hunsbury Primary – will be linking in with planting scheme for Stone Pit Hollow. Planting scheme is being worked on by Caroline Holgate.

3.4 Youth Parliament links – we are continuing to look at options to link school parliaments with Parish Councillors. Updates will be brought to this committee.

4. East Hunsbury Life Update



East Hunsbury Life is our “umbrella” brand, which was designed this year, to allow us to promote the wider activities in our parish. The ethos of reaching out to, and supporting partners is proving very popular.

4.1 Joint Newsletter – We have created a new newsletter, which is available from the Library and our Parish Office. The purpose is to give an overview of activities in East Hunsbury as a whole. The first edition includes Library and Parish Council activities, and future editions will include Abbey Centre activities and one-off community events. See copy with this report.

4.2 Website – our new website is being updated at this time. We are meeting with partners to update them on how they upload their information to the site. Full listings of all local activities will happen over time. Promotion on the new website will be a focus in January – new year focus.

4.3 Promotion of Blacky More Activities We continue to support activities at our community centre, including private hire and community meetings.

4.4 Promotion of local activities including Abbey Centre Activities – We continue to work well with the Abbey Centre, with regular meetings with the new manager. We are also increasing our contact with their community initiatives. In the run up to Christmas, we are looking at how we support their Monday Club, which offers a meal to local older community each week. We have also met with the team who deliver the Christmas Day Meal at the centre. We will continue to link in with Abbey Centre to look at how we can support the development of their well-being-café, which is due to open in Spring 2020.

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4.5 Local Charities – more local groups are approaching the parish council because of our social media promotions. We link them into likeminded groups and can talk with them about ideas, development and venues for activities etc.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – working jointly with EH WI and Hunsbury Library, we hosted a hugely successful pop-up-café. Local people donated the china, WI and our own Bake-Off Bakers from the Village Fete, baked the cakes. Volunteer hosts from WI, Library and our Seniors hosted the event. 250 people attended – quite a record for the Library for a Friday morning – with £390 in total being raised.



5. Hunsbury Library – Partner Joint Activities

Our partnership with Hunsbury Library continues to develop. Alongside our School of Life Sessions, we have now taken over the activity hub room, which is being used by local groups and for our own programme of “Crafty Sessions”.

5.1 Activities such as **Kidslingo** – French Classes for toddlers, run alongside sessions delivered by volunteers. **Our “Crafty Sessions”** have included poppy-making with **Pauline Boler**, for our local poppy project (see section below) and **East Hunsbury Rocks** community group, who decorate and hide rocks in our local parks, encouraging art and getting out and about, for all ages.

5.2 Learn2b NCC were unable to coordinate sessions for us in the autumn, they have now confirmed that they will be running craft and mindfulness sessions from January, at our activity hub room.

5.3 Christmas Workshops Programming currently for:

Christmas Wreath Making

Christmas pub stir-up with WI

Christmas Decorations workshops



Poppies – Crafty Sessions – Poppy Rocks – Community Sessions in our Activity Hub at Hunsbury Library



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5.4 Big Sing – Singing for Fun

Latest joint initiative with Hunsbury Library – we are trialling a monthly singing session, which will take place in the main library room. This is being described as a bit like rhyme-time for adults! Led by local musician.

Library Volunteers will work with us, to host a pop-up-café at each session, with the focus on singing for enjoyment, meeting new people and staying for a cuppa and a chat. Open to all ages. This complements a monthly session held once a month at Abbey Centre – again working to enhance, not clash, with our offer.

First Big Sing Taster Session – Thu 21st Nov 1.30pm to 2.30pm

6. Special Projects – benefitting our community

6.1 POPPY PROJECT – East Hunsbury Remembers Sunday 10th November

Our November commemorations have expanded this year, growing organically from input and suggestions from the local community. In addition to the lamppost poppies and the Tommie statues, we have invited local groups to take part and have enabled them to develop additional projects, leading to **our commemoration event, now planned for Sunday 10th November**. Continuing from our work to “build our village”, each village traditionally commemorates at a war memorial. This will now be our version of events, for our East Hunsbury community.

Groups included:

Library Crafty Bees – WI – Seniors - Holding their own crafting sessions, they have generated the poppies which have been made into our special wreath which will be on display in the Library AND be part of our commemoration event.

Via our Social Media – We have also had so many poppies made and dropped into the office, from local people.

East Hunsbury Poppy Rocks – this group, led by Sarah Docker, is a community group which paints rocks and places them in our local parks. The ethos of the group is to encourage people to be artistic, to paint and to get out and about, to walk, to hide and to find rocks. The group have led sessions for adults and for children, at Hunsbury Library, and have also engaged a great number of partners with us. Sessions have been held at Brownies, in schools and at our own Youth Clubs.

As a result of this huge community interest, Cllr Maggie Allen has worked with us to create a small remembrance ceremony, which will take place in **Grange Wood Park on Sunday 10th Nov**. All local councillors are invited to attend, along with members of the public.

10.50am Gather at the commemorative bench in Grange Wood Park
10.55am Wreath Laying – Cllr White and Cllr Allen
11.00am Minute Silence
11.01am Reading - Michael J Richards, local author
11.05am Laying of poppy rocks



6.2 HUNSBURY CHRISTMAS FAIR & Christmas Tree Switch On – Saturday 30th November – Hunsbury Library

11am – 4pm

Our Christmas activity for this year is being held in partnership with the Library. This will be a mixture of stalls and workshops and childrens activities. We have worked to engage local groups, including East Hunsbury Primary School Choir and the local WI.

We will be hosting a Mulled Wine and Mince Pie Station, in the foyer of the Library – we need volunteers to assist on the day, please refer them to Liz Carroll-Wheat. This is an excellent networking opportunity.

As the finale to the day, our parish Christmas Tree will be lit at 4pm. More information will be forwarded to councillors about this activity. See poster.

7. Social Media and promotion

Both members of staff are spending more time in terms of running our Social Media campaigns. Facebook interaction has greatly increased, with a dual approach. Caroline Holgate leads on formal information, appertaining to parish council decisions and to logistical and infrastructure updates (motorway, planning matters, countywide initiatives etc), whilst Liz Carroll-Wheat updates on more interactive matters (photos of activities, positive feedback from partners, promoting other activities in the parish and further afield, in line with East Hunsbury Life ethos). Caroline also leads on twitter presence.

Social media work takes place alongside newsletters and continued development of the new website. A launch of the new website will take place in January – as part of new year, new me – to promote the parish council and it's remit and activities to the local community.



East Hunsbury
Parish Council

Are you following us on Facebook? Our images and the feedback comments are showing how we are succeeding in connecting our community.

